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## How To Care for Your Nylons

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# how to care for your

by Joan Abern



**N**YLON is fast becoming a key word in your college vocabulary. You've been giving it more use when you go shopping. The care you give these nylon slips, hose, sweaters and blouses will determine how long they will last.

Nylon is a synthetic fiber and its characteristics sometimes make it hard to dye and fashion. So watch for the tag on each garment recommending cleaning or washing, and then follow instructions.

## Washing

- Wash your new lacy slip, if the tag says it's safe. First sort your washing, and put your slip with other garments of the same color. Make your washing order from light to dark colors. The surface color may come off in the wash water. This won't alter the original shade of your garment but it might color the lighter garments to follow.
- Use a mild soap that will work well in the hard or soft water you use. Be careful of the amount of soap you put in. Too much soap is hard to rinse out and will leave a film that will discolor your clothes. Warm water is good for most nylons, but test the temperature to be sure it is not hot.

## Rinsing

- Rinse your garments well. Dirt will cling only to the outside of the nylon fibers. When you wash, the soap particles attach themselves to the dirt particles on your clothes. The two stick together and form the scum you see on top of your wash water.
- Use water the same temperature as the wash water when you rinse. This is one good way for you to be kind to nylon. Rinse your clothes again and again, until the last rinse water is clear. The scum that was dirt and soap in your wash water will be removed from your garments. If some soap is left on the fibers it may cause dull and yellowish colors.
- Set up a regular washing schedule for nylons. If you wash before your clothes are heavily soiled you won't need to scrub and risk damaging fibers and fingers.

## Bluing

- Bluing white nylon garments isn't necessary, but there's no damage to nylon when you're washing nylon garments with other fabrics that do need bluing.

## Bleaching

- Use strong bleaches carefully. They weaken nylon just like they do other fabrics. If you must use a bleach to remove a stain, use the amount recommended for a normal cotton bleach.

## Drying

- Dry your clothes away from the direct heat. The surface on which you hang your slip should be smooth so it won't cause holes and snags. Squeezing out excess water hastens the drying process but it's all right to hang nylon dripping wet.
- Make a time table for drying your nylons. Most nylon used in woven fabrics is a single spun yarn. But in stockings and nylon sweaters, several very fine fibers are twisted together to make the yarn. Nylon can absorb moisture only through the cut ends of the fibers. In woven or finely knit fabrics, there are few ends to take up the moisture. But in sweaters and heavier nylons, the cut ends absorb more water.
- Keep the temperature of your iron moderate (275 degrees F.), if you find a little pressing is necessary. Usually, however, if you hang the nylon wet and smooth it out with your hands, it won't need pressing. If your iron doesn't have a nylon setting, use the rayon setting. Too high temperatures yellow nylon.

## Freezing

- Experiment with the idea of freezing your nylon hose. Saleswomen recommend it for cutting down snagging of nylon hose. It won't harm your stockings and will probably keep them in service longer. Wash your stockings as you ordinarily would and then put them on a heavy paper. Place them just outside your window one of these cold winter days and freeze them. If you repeat the freezing several times it should be effective.